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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

617706

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR 16 April 1954

SUBJECT

Shortage of Metal Oxides

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PLACE
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INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. East Germany in 1953 had a normal import requirement of 120 metric tons of aluminum, gold, silver and other metal bronzes. These bronzes are used in the printing industry and for lacquers and paints. In 1954 the total import of these bronzes will amount to only 30 metric tons. The State Committee for Material Allocation has instituted strict rationing measures for metal oxides and will parcel out the 30 metric tons of bronzes to East German industry.
2. A general shortage of cobalt oxides also prevails. A total of from 30 to 40 metric tons would normally be needed for 1954. The planned imports amount to 9 metric tons. Strict rationing measures are to be instituted for this commodity.
3. BHZ Leipzig, which handles the distribution of these metal oxides to East German industry, recently had to make available 30 metric tons of various bronze oxides to fill an important Russian order for the printing of labels. 1/ However, the allocation for 1954 was not increased by the 30 metric tons taken out for the Russian order. No additional bronze imports are planned at this time. 2/

25X1A 1/ ☐ Comment. This is presumably a cover for the printing of bank notes.

25X1A 2/ ☐ Comment. Bronze is usually imported from West Germany; some lesser quantities from Czechoslovakia. The Czech quality does not measure up to the quality of that which is supplied by West Germany.

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